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Letter dated 15 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit to you the decision on the current situation in Burundi that the Peace and Security Council of the African Union adopted at its 515th meeting, held on 13 June 2015 at the level of Heads of State and Government (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Albert **Shingiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 15 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué on the situation in Burundi

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 515th meeting, held on 13 June 2015 at the level of Heads of State and Government, adopted the following decision on the situation in Burundi.

The Council,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Burundi (PSC/AHG/3(DXV)), and also **takes note** of the statement made by the Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi, as well as of the interventions by President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania, in his capacity as Chairperson of the East African Community, and by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations;

2. **Recalls** its earlier communiqués and press statements on the situation in Burundi, including communiqué PSC/PR/COMM(DVII), adopted at its 507th meeting, held on 14 May 2015, as well as the press releases and statements by the Chairperson of the Commission, and **reaffirms** the determination of the African Union to fully assume the responsibilities arising from its role as guarantor of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi of August 2000, concluded after sustained efforts by the region and Africa as a whole, with the support of the international community;

3. **Reiterates its deep appreciation** to the East African Community and the leaders of the region for their commitment and sustained efforts to facilitate the search for a lasting political solution to the serious crisis facing Burundi, **pays tribute** to the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit, for his commitment and the outstanding efforts that he has deployed for the resolution of this crisis, and **welcomes** the contribution made by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Economic Community of Central African States, including the communiqués issued at the end of their summits held in Luanda, Angola, and in N'Djamena, Chad, on 18 and 25 May 2015, respectively;

4. **Commends** the Chairperson of the Commission for her commitment and determination to facilitate a political solution to the crisis in Burundi, as well as for all the initiatives she has taken to that end;

5. **Expresses its deep concern** about the continuing stalemate in Burundi, despite the sustained efforts by the East African Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the African Union and the United Nations, with the support of bilateral and multilateral partners, **notes with disappointment** that the political dialogue initiated by the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, with the participation of the East African Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the African Union, has not produced the expected results, and **stresses** that the current situation could jeopardize the important gains recorded following the signing of the Arusha Peace and

Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi and the Global Ceasefire Agreement of 2003, and affect the stability of the region;

6. **Reaffirms** the African Union's conviction that only dialogue and consensus, based on the respect of the Arusha Agreement and the Constitution of Burundi, will make it possible to find a lasting political solution, ensuring the preservation and consolidation of peace, as well as the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law, and **once again calls upon** all the Burundian actors to show restraint and to place the national interest above all other considerations;

7. **Reiterates its concern** about the difficult situation of the Burundian refugees who fled their country towards the neighbouring States, **commends** the host countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and United Republic of Tanzania), as well as the humanitarian agencies, for their support to the concerned populations, **calls upon** the international community to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance, and **urges** the Government of Burundi to create the necessary conditions for their early return;

8. **Stresses** the imperative need for respect for human rights and public freedoms, as guaranteed by the Constitution of Burundi, and **reiterates** the strong condemnation by the African Union of all acts of violence and human rights abuses;

9. **Reiterates its support** to the sustained efforts being deployed by the East African Community and **emphasizes** the relevance of the measures agreed upon at the summits held in Dar es Salaam, on 13 and 31 May 2015, including the call for the postponement of the elections and the immediate cessation of violence, the disarmament of youth groups affiliated to political parties, the initiation of a dialogue among the Burundian stakeholders, as well as the commitment of the region not to stand by in case the situation deteriorates, which provide a framework for a political and consensual solution to the crisis;

10. **Decides**, as a follow-up to its earlier communiqués and press statements, and in support of the decisions of the East African Community, that the following measures shall be taken to expedite the search for a consensual political solution to the crisis in Burundi:

(a) The resumption of dialogue among all the Burundian parties within one week of the adoption of the present communiqué, under the facilitation of the African Union, the United Nations, the East African Community and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, with the support of the concerned members of the international community. The Council **invites** the Chairperson of the Commission to immediately initiate the necessary consultations for the operationalization of this international facilitation, under the auspices of the Chairperson of the East African Community;

(b) The inter-Burundian dialogue, building on the work already done with the facilitation of the United Nations, shall focus on the measures to be taken to create conditions conducive to the organization of free, fair, transparent and credible elections, as well as on all the matters on which the parties disagree;

(c) The date of the election shall be set by consensus among the Burundian parties, in the spirit of the East African Community communiqué of 31 May 2015 requesting a postponement of the elections, and on the basis of a technical assessment to be undertaken by the United Nations;

(d) The immediate deployment of human rights observers and other civilian personnel of the African Union, as agreed in communiqué PSC/PR/COMM(DVII).

The Council **reiterates** its call to the Government of Burundi to extend its full cooperation to this process;

(e) The deployment of military experts of the African Union, both from the region and other regions of the continent, in collaboration with the Government and other concerned actors, to verify the process of disarming the militias and other armed groups. This group of experts, whose strength shall be determined by the Chairperson of the Commission, in consultation with the region, will submit regular reports on the implementation of the disarmament process; and

(f) The deployment of an election observer mission of the African Union, if conditions for the organization of free, fair, transparent and credible elections, in accordance with the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, are met;

11. **Looks forward** to the visit to Burundi of the ministerial delegation of the East African Community, in pursuance of the communiqué of the Dar es Salaam summit of 31 May 2015, and **decides** to dispatch, by the first week of July 2015, a ministerial delegation including the Commission to assess the implementation status of the decisions contained in paragraph 10 above and enable it to take the decisions that may be required, including determining the way forward, should the parties not reach an agreement within a period of two weeks after the launching of the dialogue;

12. **Reaffirms** its determination to take, in due course and with the support of the Security Council of the United Nations, all the necessary measures against the Burundian stakeholders whose action may lead to the perpetuation of violence and would impede the search for a political solution;

13. **Welcomes the measures** taken by the Chairperson of the Commission to strengthen the Liaison Office of the African Union in Bujumbura, as a follow-up to the relevant provisions of communiqué PSC/PR/COMM(DVII), **also welcomes** the appointment of professor Ibrahima Fall, as the new Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for the Great Lakes Region and Head of the Liaison Office of the African Union in Bujumbura, and **assures** him of its full support in the fulfilment of his mandate;

14. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to formally transmit the present communiqué to the Government of Burundi and to the other concerned actors, **also requests** her to transmit this communiqué to all concerned regional organizations, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, through him, to the Security Council of the United Nations, as well as to the European Union, to mobilize their support, and in particular **further requests** the Security Council to endorse the present communiqué;

15. **Invites** the Chairperson of the Commission to keep the Council regularly informed of the evolution of the situation to enable it to take the necessary measures;

16. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.